The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Defeat is a school in which truth always grows strong.—Beecher.

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COAL OWNERS AND "REDS" JOINTLY ATTACK MINERS

The Senate coal strike investigating committee has found that I. W. W.'s and Communists are active in the Pennsylvania area, but the coal owners are not alarmed.

The president of one contract-breaking mine company told the Senators he does not believe the "reds" will prove a menace to the public.

The employer defended these breeders of social hate and embittered foes of everything that makes present-day civilization.

The coal owners want wages based on the non-union fields of West Virginia and Kentucky. The United Mine Workers are a barrier to this program and the edict is issued: "Smash the union." The "reds" have the same objective.

The coal owners welcome every aid from revolutionists, who work along lines that differ from injunction judges and special police clubbers.

The "reds" pose as enemies of the coal owners, but devote every energy against union officials who are directing the strike.

The coal owners understand the "red" campaign that is intended to destroy the workers' solidarity and morale.

So, when Senators call attention to the activity of revolutionists, coal owners rush to the defense of their agents and again verify the old story of reaction and revolution joining hands whenever organized labor is attacked.

Let no trade unionist be fooled as to the purpose of the coal owners. They are out to smash the Miners' Union. In support of this charge, attention is called to the following statement by the Pittsburgh correspondent of the Wall Street Journal (February 27 issue):

"Ostensibly they (miners) are engaged in a quarrel over wage scales. But the fundamental cause of the dispute goes deeper. It is more than a contest between unionism and the anti-union shop. It is a struggle to establish a competitive wage."

It is not necessary for this correspondent to point out that if the anti-union shop is established competitive wages will follow. Wall Street Journal readers understand.

Organized coal miners agree that their industry is overdeveloped and has to meet "white coal" competition.

But ills in this industry can not be solved by smashing the union and lowering wages.

England tried this plan last year when miners were driven back to work with a longer work day and a reduced wage.

Instead of helping matters, British coal owners find themselves in a worse condition. They are in a cut-throat competition and for the first time coal-producing districts are pitted against one another in a wage-slashing campaign that has no limit. Poor relief authorities in these sections are taxed to their limit to aid starving workers and dependents.

If the United Mine Workers is destroyed the evils that confront the soft coal industry will remain untouched.

It is too much to expect greed-crazed employers will solve this problem. The voice of the public and the workers must be heard and considered.

The present problem is to save the Miners' Union.

HUNGER STALKS IN STRIKE AREA; LABOR APPEALS FOR MINERS' AID

Washington, March 3.—The A. F. of L. Executive Council has issued a second appeal to relieve suffering of striking coal miners and their dependents. Organized labor and friends are asked to do their utmost in relieving distress in the strike areas.

The first appeal, issued last November, brought a wide and sympathetic response, but the 11 months of idleness, extending into the rigors of mid-winter, has caused unspeakable misery and woe.

"The cruelty and heartlessness of many mining corporations have been reflected in evictions of families from their homes," says the Executive Council.

"The situation became so acute that the attention of Congress was directed to it. As a result the Senate ordered an investigation. We will await with interest the result of this investigation.

"In the meantime help to the miners and their dependents must be forthcoming. For this reason we again appeal to the membership of organized labor and friends.

"We express the hope that those who have made liberal contributions may find it possible to contribute more, and those who found it impossible to give may now respond in a whole-hearted and generous way.

"Reliable reports which we have received show that thousands of children have become emaciated because of lack of food and are so unprotected, through lack of clothing and shoes, that it is impossible for them to attend school. In these mining communities there are large numbers of under-fed and poorly clad children.

"There is a great need of all kinds of support, but especially money and food. In forwarding supplies, please place special emphasis upon money and food. Give to the extent of your ability.

"It is our knowledge of the distress in the coal fields which causes us to issue this additional appeal for help. We know the membership of organized labor will understand the situation and you realize that only a great emergency would cause the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. to again appeal to you in this manner. We express the hope that the response to this appeal will be as large, full and complete, as the response made to the former appeal, issued on November 19.

"Send all money to Frank Morrison, secretary A. F. of L., A. F. of L. Building, Washington, D. C.

Send all clothing, food, shoes and other supplies to William Hargest, 408 Columbia Bank Building, Pittsburgh, Pa."

HENRY NOLDA PASSES ON

Washington, March 3.—Henry Nolda, organizer of the Upholsterers' International Union, died in this city after an illness of several months' duration.

CAN DICTATOR DIRECT CITIZENSHIP ABROAD?

Washington, March 3.—Congressman Fish of New York, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, has asked Secretary of State Kellogg if he has any information to show alleged activities of the Fascisti of North America would prevent Italians from becoming American citizens.

The Secretary's attention was also called to cable dispatches that Mussolini has ordered that Italians living abroad must yield obedience to Fascisti laws.

"Fascism may be the kind of government needed in Italy, and Mussolini may have saved Italy from the horrors of Communism, but it is the negation and denial of our republican form of government," said Mr. Fish.

"It is a repudiation of government by the consent of the governed and of all popular government. It is the rule by bayonet and the denial of all civil liberties, the right of vote, the liberty of the press, the freedom of speech and assemblage.

"Mussolini says our democratic form of government is a failure. He has a right to his opinion, but not to apply Fascisti methods in the United States by preventing Italians from becoming American citizens."

COAL OWNERS PLAN TO DESTROY UNION

Knoxville, Tenn., March 3.—In an affidavit before a notary public Dr. C. M. Capps of this city swears that S. J. Corbett, land purchasing agent for the contract - breaking Pittsburgh Coal Company of Western Pennsylvania, told him "that the fight in the coal fields was not so much a question of wages as it was a fight to force the labor unions to disorganize and disband."

Dr. Capps was connected at the time with the United States Veterans' Hospital in Pennsylvania.

In discussing this affidavit, Dr. Capps said:

"I do not usually take sides in such matters, but this is so unjust, for humanity's sake I want to see this thing straightened out. Many of the miners have been evicted from their homes and are living in barracks. About 3,000 officers, appointed during the strike, patrol the mining districts and abuse miners and their families."

Dr. Capps said an investigation will show that several hundred women and children have died from starvation and exposure during the extreme cold weather in that region.

RAILROAD FIGHTS INJUNCTION EDICT

Houston, Texas, March 3.—The Texas & Pacific railroad of the Southern Pacific lines will contest Federal Judge Hutcheson's order against officials of the carrier fostering a company "union" of its clerks. Three officials were given 10 days to comply with the order or be confined in the county jail until they changed their minds.

The motion to dissolve the injunction was indicated by railroad attorneys to be the first step in a fight to test the legality of the Esch-Cummins railroad act which gives these workers the right to select their own unions and representatives. This section of the law has been ignored by railroads. The principal offender is the Pennsylvania Railroad. This carrier refused to recognize any organization other than its company "union."

BRITISH EMPLOYERS IMPERIL PEACE PLAN

London, England, March 3.—Industrial peace is jeopardized by anti-union employers, according to Ben Turner, chairman of the British Trade Union Congress General Council.

"Things are happening which make it difficult for trade union officials to take part in talks on better industrial relations," he said.

The trade unionist charged that victimization is general in mills and mines.

WHY "PLAY FAVORITES"?

The Pennsylvania Railroad and the Reading Railroad, together with several subsidiaries, ask the Interstate Commerce Commission to regulate the motor bus. The "regulation" would uphold rates, that returns on capital is assured.

If the railroads are right, why can't workers secure government aid against the importation of strikebreakers who lessen their income?

If modern methods affect the railroads' income, and harm stockholders, why can't workers object to labor-displacing machinery that forces them into the army of unemployed?

Hair-splitting legalists may draw sharp lines between the two cases, but where do they differ from the standpoint of ethics and morality?

If the workers are told, "You can't stop progress," why can't this apply to stockholders who want dividends guaranteed?

LOS ANGELES FLOODED WITH SEEKERS FOR JOBS

Washington, March 3.—"There are 70,000 unemployed persons in this city, but Los Angeles business men continue to spend millions of dollars annually to attract people to this city," said J. W. Buzzell, secretary-treasurer of Los Angeles Central Labor Council, in a letter to William Green, president A. F. of L.

The trade unionist's estimate was reached by checking up union reports with unemployment figures issued by County Charities, the Community Chest, the Chamber of Commerce and other agencies.

The million-dollar fund is expended by the All-Year Club, an adjunct of the Chamber of Commerce. The county and city of Los Angeles contributed this year $425,000 of this amount.

"We feel that it is wrong to have this money spent for advertising which leads people to believe there is an immense amount of employment here, and which results in thousands of people spending practically all their money to come here, only to meet with disappointment," said Mr. Buzzell.

JERSEY BLUE LAWS TURNED ON BACKERS

Millburn, N. J., March 3.—Reformers who invoked the blue laws of this State to close moving picture houses on Sundays have called off their fight "for the time being."

Citizens who opposed the reformers concluded to give them a dose of their own medicine by insisting that all blue laws be enforced.

The blue laws are most excellent, opponents said. Drug stores were closed, the sale of newspapers forbidden, and no one was permitted to buy gasoline.

"We can see that things aren't working out as we planned," said the leader of the reformers, who hopes to divide opponents by urging a law that will close theaters on Sunday but will exempt other business.

WANT MILD PENALTY

Boston, March 3.—Manufacturers in this State object to a bill that would prevent workers from being coerced into joining a company "union."

One Fall River employer told a legislative committee that the six months' jail penalty is "altogether too severe for a minor infraction of the law." This employer would not object to a small fine, or could be paid and charged up to operating expenses, but he is shocked at the thought of "doing time."

Federal Attorney Defends Spies: Senators Expose Illegal Action

Washington, March 3.—The spectacle of a Federal District Attorney defending the use of spies and undercover men by the Indianapolis Traction Company featured one of the Senate committee hearings on the Shipstead anti-injunction bill.

Federal Judge Baltzell issued an injunction against the Amalgamated Street Car Men's Union and sentenced Organizers Parker and Armstrong to 90 days in jail for contempt of court.

Federal District Attorney Albert Ward prosecuted the case. The attorney seemed jubilant over the decision for "law and order" until he ran afoul of Senator Walsh, who asked him if it was customary for a district attorney to prosecute contempt cases such as the present one.

"But a strike, with possible violence, was possible," said Ward.

"This contempt did not refer to a strike, which you acknowledge the workers have the right to engage in," the Montanan coldly replied.

The district attorney saw the point and slumped in his chair. "I might be mistaken," he whimpered.

Gaining fresh courage, the witness engaged in an enthusiastic defense of the spies and undercover men whom the company placed in the union. These included the president of the local, who was paid $50 a week, and who addressed meetings.

Asked by Senator Walsh if he proceeded against the spy, Ward said the company assured him that the spy "exceeded his authority," and that no action was taken.

Eugene Fresh (the spy) was merely trying to straighten things out," said the district attorney.

The chairman put in defense of company spies while the committee stared in amazement at the witness, who seemed to believe he would be taken seriously.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Macon, Ga., March 2.—Officers of the Georgia Federation of Labor issued a call for the annual convention, to be held in this city beginning Wednesday, April 18.

EDGAR WALLACE DEAD; WAS LABOR LAW EXPERT

Washington, March 3.—Edgar Wallace, for eight years legislative representative of the A. F. of L., unexpectedly died in a local hospital, following an operation. He was 60 years of age.

He was a member of the United Mine Workers and served as editor of the Mine Workers' Journal prior to coming to Washington. In 1918 he was a member of an American labor commission, headed by President Gompers, who toured countries that were warring with the Central Powers.

The funeral in this city was largely attended by Congressmen and trade unionists. The body was taken to his home in Cockeysville, Md., for burial. Mrs. Wallace was accompanied by Edward J. McGrady, legislative representative of the A. F. of L., who was Mr. Wallace's companion in defending and explaining progressive labor legislation to members of Congress.

"The trade union movement sustains a very great loss in the passing of Mr. Wallace," said President Green. "He was a very efficient representative of the A. F. of L. His experience and knowledge of legislative matters was of very great value to our movement. As a result of his years of service, he gained a knowledge of Congress and its members that few men possess. He was personally acquainted with practically every member of the House and Senate."

OIL DICTATOR URGED; INDUSTRY IS WRECKED

New York, March 3.—The oil industry is wrecked and a dictator "with the powers of a Mussolini" is necessary to "lead us out of the wilderness," according to J. S. Cullinan, prominent oil man.

Private initiative seems to have lost its value and Mr. Cullinan suggests that if the oil men organize, appoint a dictator and co-operate with the Federal Oil Conservation Board and like national agencies, the oil industry movement should be reflected promptly and the industry as a whole restored to a permanently sound basis within the near future."

HOSIERY WORKERS OUT

Kenosha, Wis., March 3.—The Allen-A Full-Fashioned Hosiery Company locked out employes who refuse to abandon the American Federation of Full-Fashioned Hosiery Workers. The company is doing a prosperous business and operated day and night shifts, but was not satisfied and attempted to inaugurate a speed-up system.

MINE CONTRACT VALUE DENIED OWNER WOULD DODGE PLEDGE

Pittsburgh, Pa., March 3.—The Jacksonville agreement was not an agreement between mine workers and coal owners. It was an "arrangement" that could be ended by either party, J. D. A. Morrow, president of the Pittsburgh Coal Company, told the Senate Mine Probe Committee.

Coal owners defend their contract-breaking on the ground of economic necessity, but the Morrow claim is a new line of attack.

"You are the first operator I have talked to, and I've talked to a lot of them," said Senator Wheeler, "who ever contended that the Jacksonville contract wasn't valid, legally and morally, and that it wasn't to be lived up to by both sides.

"If your contention is correct you simply made a gesture at Jacksonville and then took advantage of legal technicalities to escape your part of the agreement."

Senator Wheeler sharply cross-examined Morrow, who was placed on the defensive.

"You entered into an agreement at Jacksonville after the Federal government used its good offices to bring about the meeting!" asked the Montana lawmaker.

"Yes, sir," said Morrow.

"That agreement was to run for three years, wasn't it?"

"Yes," replied the coal owner. "But before we discuss that I would like to explain some things about the nature of that agreement."

"I don't want any definitions, want the facts," said Senator Wheeler.

The agreement was to run until April, 1927. You closed your mines in 1925 and opened them again with non-union labor. Didn't you sign an agreement to pay a basic wage scale, and that agreement was to run for three years?"

Morrow insisted that the agreement was not an agreement. He also insisted that he would never, never, never treat with the United Mine Workers or any other labor organization.

GAS TAX ILLEGAL

Springfield, Ill., March 3.—The State Supreme Court has outlawed the Illinois gasoline tax of 2 cents a gallon. Fuel companies added an extra cent to defray collection costs.

The court held the law was discriminatory because it did not apply to other users of gasoline.

OIL LOOTERS GUILTY OF JURY SHADOWING

Washington, March 3.—Things are breaking badly for Harry F. Sinclair, wealthy oil operator.

He has lost every court fight to hold the Teapot Dome oil reserve, handed over by Albert B. Fall, then Secretary of the Interior. He is under a three-months' jail sentence for refusal to testify in the latest Senate Teapot Dome inquiry, and now he has been sentenced by Justice Siddons in a District of Columbia court to six months in jail for contempt of court. He was found guilty of employing Detective William J. Burns to "shadow" the jury in a conspiracy trial in which he and Fall are defendants.

Justice Siddons levied a four-months' jail sentence on Henry Mason Day, go-between, or so-called "contact man," for Sinclair and Burns. The detective was given a 15-day jail sentence and his son was fined $1,000.

The legal sources of the accused will permit of long court contests before they land in jail. The four men plan to carry their case to the United States Supreme Court, if necessary. They claim there is no law against jury shadowing.

The Senate committee is uncovering more evidence on the unsavory Teapot Dome scandal, and this will be a factor in the trial of Sinclair and Fall, when they face criminal conspiracy charges next month. This trial was abandoned by Justice Siddons as a result of the jury shadowing.

SPEED UP STATE WORK, SAYS GOVERNOR SMITH

Albany, N. Y., March 3.—Governor Smith has taken prompt action to meet the unemployed situation, following an investigation, under his orders, by State Industrial Commissioner Hamilton.

In a letter to mayors of New York cities and to boards of county supervisors, the chief executive suggests the speeding up of public works to provide more jobs.

Orders to hasten the State building and construction projects were issued by Governor Smith.

In his report to the Governor, Commissioner Hamilton said serious distress has been caused by unemployment.

"No man," he said, "can safely predict the future, but if the present condition is not relieved, distress will increase. One has to go back to 1921 to find an unemployment situation rivaling the present."

FIVE-DAY WORK WEEK URGED IN BUILDING

Chicago, March 3.—Agitation for the five-day work week continues in the building crafts, although only the larger portion of contracts between these unions and employers do not expire until next year. The painters favored the short work week by a vote of 7,000 to 2,000 and the Painters' District Council asks the Chicago Building Trades Council to consider this change in the next agreement.

Contractors take their usual position that a five-day week will wreck the building industry and that people will be compelled to live in shacks and Mexican adobes. They made the same prediction when the 10-hour day was abolished, and when the 44-hour week was forced upon them.

FORBIDDEN HYMNS SUNG BY SENATORS

Rochester, Pa., March 3.—Members of the Senate Strike Probe Committee joined in singing hymns that have been mysteriously prohibited from singing on the outside of a church by Common Pleas Court Judge J. N. Langham of Indiana county.

Senators Gooding, Wheeler, Wagner and Pine took seats in the choir section of the Little Beaver church.

The order was issued at the request of the Clearfield Bituminous Coal Corporation, which also prohibited miners from advertising in the newspapers about conditions in the mines.

The coal company's attorney told the committee that the Miners' Union "or any other labor organization does not have the right to advertise in the newspapers and tell the world that it go to work who want to go to work."

This statement brought a hot retort from Senator Wheeler, who said the injunction breeds anarchy.

"I am amazed," said the Montanan, "that a man who practiced law for 20 years in this country or any other would have the temerity to stand in front of the people of the United States Senate and make such a statement."

Judge Langham acknowledged to the committee that he is interested in coal mining properties.

BRITISH COMMUNISTS GET MOSCOW ORDERS

London, March 3.—"Oppose candidates of the Labor Party and the British Trades Union Congress in the next election," is the order from Moscow to the British Communist Party.

British Communists are attempting to remove the sting from the blow in order to be afforded with Conservatives by claiming they will only oppose Labor candidates where the vote is overwhelmingly proletarian that a split vote would not let a capitalist candidate in."

Trade unionists are not trapped by this plea. They point to the effort of "reds" to divide workers on orders from the Third Internationale.

Public Works Can End Unemployment Machine Competition Must Be Faced

Ann Arbor, Mich., March 3.—The government can relieve unemployment distress by immediate legislation providing for public enterprises, said William Green, president A. F. of L., in an address to University of Michigan students.

"If Congress would pass the flood control bill, the army housing, naval construction and general housing legislation, and would make the appropriation now for work available at once, our present problem of unemployment would be quickly solved," said Mr. Green. "Such action by Congress would be supplemented by similar action in the different states and municipalities where public improvements and public works is planned. Congress ought to act quickly. The public should demand speedy action upon all legislation which provides for the expenditure of funds in accordance with governmental plans for public improvement and public work."

President Green let it be understood that his solution for present conditions is not final, but that the underlying problem of unemployment must be studied.

"The introduction of improved machinery has affected the situation to some extent," he said. "In the survey of this situation we are impressed by the fact that while we can not interfere with industrial progress and scientific advancement we will be concerned with the problem of displacement in a most acute form. When these new industries reach the point of consideration the problem of continued displacement of men through the use of improved machinery must be considered and met and settled.

"The nation can not destroy its purchasing power through the creation of an army of unemployed and expect to maintain increased commodity production. The buying power of the people must be placed at a high level through an economic condition which provides steady employment and high wages. This is the only way through which a balance between production and consuming power can be maintained."

LOW-WAGE EMPLOYERS FAVOR WELFARE WORK

Washington, March 3.—Corporations should contribute to welfare funds to solve the problems they create, according to delegates from various sections of the country who attended a conference called by the Community Chests Association.

Representative business men seemed to accept the theory that where poverty is caused by low wages and inevitable social ills follow, corporations should make part atonement by aiding welfare work and by a gloss over conditions they create.

"It is fundamentally the best thing for a community if large corporations contribute to welfare work," said William Cooper Procter, president of the Procter & Gamble Company, Cincinnati.

The new feudalism was also indorsed by Robert Gaylord of the Bethlehem Steel Company. "Corporate gifts to community chests should be recognized among the legitimate expenditures of the corporation," he said.

STATE COMPENSATION FAVORED BY UNIONISTS

Boston, March 3.—Private insurance companies and allied interests oppose a bill that would establish a State monopoly in workmen's compensation. Trade unionists urge this plan, that has proven so successful in Ohio. The organized workers show that such legislation will save employers $1,000,000 annually.

Squalor In Pittsburgh Coal District "Blotch On American Civilization"

Pittsburgh, Pa., March 3.—"Conditions which exist in the strike-torn coal regions of the Pittsburgh district are a blotch upon American civilization," declared the Senate coal strike investigating committee in a formal statement that upholds every charge by organized labor.

"It is inconceivable," the Senators said, "that such squalor, suffering, misery and distress should be tolerated in the heart of one of the richest industrial centers of the world.

"The committee found men, women and children living in hovels that are more insanitary than a swine pen, thus breeding places for sickness and crime.

"They constitute fertile fields for the sower of discontent and other pernicious evils teach the overthrow of the American form of government. Industrial leaders of America can not permit such conditions to exist.

"The coal owners in Pittsburgh soft coal fields is more than a local fight between a union and a group of coal operators. It is an industrial war that affects the entire nation. A remedy must be found to relieve the deplorable conditions which the committee has found in its first-hand survey of the coal mines and camps."

The committee failed to block union representatives from accompanying the committee. The Senators were not impressed by a large delegation of coal owners who made the request for the evident purpose of taking part in the investigation.

President Morrow of the Pittsburgh Coal Company refused to tell Senators how much profit is produced by the Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Corporation expended his company's profits in the unsanitary, vermin-infested bunk houses that his strikebreakers use.

The coal magnate couldn't understand such conditions existing and assured the Senators that he "had been prominent in social welfare work in Pittsburgh and had contributed to welfare funds."

In reply to Baker's statement that he could not operate a mine with an anti-union shop, Senator Gooding said:

"You are aiding and abetting the I. W. W. and the radicals."

"I don't think the I. W. W. is a menace to our industry," was the reply.

OLD AGE PENSIONS CALLED INADEQUATE

Albany, N. Y., March 3.—The Joint Welfare Committee of the State Legislature rejects the claim that old-age pensions can be substituted for almshouses.

In its report to the Legislature, following an investigation of public charitable institutions, the committee states that 85 per cent of the inmate population is in need of better nursing and medical attention.

"To this 85 per cent, a pension would avail nothing," the report said. "What they require is better medical care in a hospital for medical cases. Of the other 15 per cent probably not half have sufficient mentality to disburse money wisely.

"The committee is surprised to find many persons in county homes voluntarily paying their own way. These receive the same treatment as charity patients but are not counted among the legitimate expenditures of the corporation," he said.

LABOR LAW CHANGES URGED

Ottawa, Canada, March 3.—A trade union delegation urged the government to accept changes in the Ontario workmen's compensation law. They were unanimously approved by the last convention of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress.

The workers favor compensation for total or partial disability based upon the average earnings at time of accident of three-quarters of such average, instead of two-thirds, up to at least $2,500.

FAVOR CONVICT LABOR BILL

Detroit, March 3.—The annual convention of the Michigan State Federation of Labor approved the Cooper-Hawes convict labor bill, now pending in Congress.

The bill would permit states to apply their convict labor laws to goods made products shipped in from other states.

200 STORES UNITE

New York, March 3.—More than 200 retail stores have formed the Associated Furniture Syndicate of America, Inc. The dealers will affiliate with 100 manufacturers who agree to sell them merchandise at maximum discounts. This will remove competition and reduce costs. Advertisements in newspapers will be standardized.

WORKERS ORGANIZING

Rockford, Ill., March 3.—Furniture workers in this city are organizing to block wage reductions. Trade unionists are aiding these employes to resist an attack that is bound to extend if successful in this case.